

Minutes
Brown County Soil & Water
Conservation District
3/4/2020
Brown County History Center- 4:30 pm

Board Meeting

The meeting was brought to order at 4:30 pm by chair Scott Stephenson. Those in attendance were as follows: Jim Allen, Bonnie Closey, Courtney McGuckin, Amanda Perkins, Allison Shoaf, Scott Stephenson, Al Weber, and Laura Young.

A correction was made to the phrase "Parks & Rec" in the February minutes. Al made a motion to accept the minutes with this change. Laura seconded. Motion passed. The minutes were signed by the board members.

Amanda made a motion to accept the February Financial Report and Claims. Laura seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Summer Intern: The application period has closed for our summer intern role. We received about 10 applications and will offer an interview to 5 of the candidates. Amanda and Jim will work with Allison as the interviewing committee.

2020 Mini Grants: Allison mailed letters of approval and contracts out to recipients to be signed and returned. Projects can begin anytime. Funds will be given upon the completion of project. Allison will check in with the grant recipients in July if she has not received an update by then.

New Business:

NRCS: N/A

Internal Audit Report: Laura and Bonnie completed the internal audit on February 17th. A copy of the full audit is available in the office for anyone to review.

Mini Grants Subcommittee: Allison would like a few board members to work with her to fine tune details for the mini grants and review the contracts. Laura and Al offered to be on the subcommittee.

Business Plan Subcommittee: The current business plan expires at the end of this year. Scott will meet with Allison and Courtney to create the plan for 2021-2025.

Manager's Updates: "Courtney, Kara, and I met with Dr. Hammack on Feb. 6 th to discuss the possibility of an outdoor learning lab at the HS. The location we proposed is not suitable because of safety issues, the fact it is located in a floodplain, and future potential use of the land. Dr. Hammack said she would talk it over with the school board to see if they can think of a more appropriate place. All in all, we agreed the Elementary School's outdoor classrooms are a great place where we could invest our time and resources. I completed our AFR and submitted it on Gateway and to our DSS. The grant writing workshop I completed was really worthwhile and I plan to share those materials with Courtney. In

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March I have quite a few trainings and I'll be prepping for April programs."

Educator's Updates: "I met with Kelly Schwenk, the art teacher for Helmsburg and Sprunica, to discuss an after school art club she will be creating. She is going to use the NACD poster contest as the focus project for the club. I will be presenting to that group on March 26th. The composting workshop is full. We had a lot of interest and plan to host the workshop again sometime this year. The workshop is March 19th at 6pm. The BC Native Woodlands Project annual meeting is next Tuesday the 10th at 6pm at the NCC Lifehouse. I have been helping to promote this event."

FoLM 319 Grant: Allison went out with Maggie Sullivan, the Watershed Coordinator, to do a watershed windshield survey. They will be going out again to check the stream sampling locations for the upcoming sampling blitz which is on April 24th. The FoLM group is planning a public watershed tour for some time in June.

Rule 5: The Helmsburg clearing is in compliance. Allison sent pictures of the Salt Creek Trail to IDEM to be reviewed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm. Motion was made by Amanda and seconded by Al. Motion passed.

Annual Meeting

The meeting was brought to order at 6:00pm by chair Scott Stephenson.

BCSWCD Staff and community partner introductions were made.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Jerry Pittman swore in Jim Allen and Amanda Perkins as elected and appointed members of the Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District board, respectively.

Amy Spalding, Forester with NRCS and the National Wild Turkey Federation, presented on the history and work of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Minutes taken and submitted by Courtney McGuckin.